

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: BELGIAN DRAFT ON ALLIED CONSULTATIONS AND  
PROCEDURE FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION OF BELGIAN DRAFT  
PAPER GIVEN TO USNATO OFFICERS ON JULY 12: BEGIN TEXT:

BELGIAN DELEGATION TO NATO

WORKING DOCUMENT ON ALLIED CONSULTATION AND  
PROCEDURE FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

1. DIRECTIVES FOR THE MBFR NEGOTIATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED  
IN THE LIGHT OF THE EXPERIENCE GAINED DURING THE VIENNA EXPLORATORY  
PHASE. EXPERIENCE THERE SHOWS THAT RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS  
HAVE NOT BEEN CLARIFIED SUFFICIENTLY AND THAT SOME CONFUSION  
RESULTED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE AD HOC  
GROUP. CLARIFICATION IS THEREFORE NEEDED. ABOVE ALL, WE MUST  
SPECIFY WHICH IS THE SUPERVISORY BODY AND DEFINE THE RESPON-  
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SIBILITIES OF THE ACTION GROUP ON THE SPOT.

2. GIVEN THAT MBFR INVOLVES THE INTEGRATED FORCES OF THE  
ALLIANCE, THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE THE FORUM BOTH FOR PRESENTATION

OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS DETERMINING GENERAL NEGOTIATING POLICY AND ENSURING THAT PARTICULAR STEPS IN THE NEGOTIATION CONFORM TO THIS GENERAL POLICY. THE COUNCIL IS THUS THE PERMANENT SUPERVISORY POLICY BODY FOR THE ALLIANCE IN MBFR AND THIS SHOULD BE CLEARLY ACCEPTED AT THE OUTSET.

3. HOWEVER, WE ALSO NEED TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS SO AS NOT TO IMPEDE PROGRESS. STRATEGY IS THE PROVINCE OF THE COUNCIL, WHILE TACTICS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE SPOT--WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK SET BY THE COUNCIL AND REMAINING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE COUNCIL THROUGHOUT. IN CASES OF DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE AD HOC GROUP, ALLIED SOLIDARITY REQUIRES THAT EVERY ATTEMPT BE MADE TO FIND A COMPROMISE SOLUTION AND IN THE MEANTIME THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE BE SUSPENDED. IF THE AD HOC GROUP CANNOT RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, IT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL THUS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ENSURING THAT ITS DIRECTIVES ARE FOLLOWED, UTILIZING IN PARTICULAR THE WEEKLY AD HOC GROUP CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. FOR REASONS OF CONVENIENCE AND CONTINUITY, IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE FOR THE AD HOC GROUP TO BE CHAIRED BY THE SAME PERSON AT ALL TIMES, FOR EXAMPLE THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE DELEGATIONS, AS AGREED, OR THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

5. (A) IN PRINCIPLE, NEGOTIATION WITH THE EASTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN PLENARY MEETINGS. PLENARIES CONSTITUTE THE IDEAL FORUM WHERE ALL PARTICIPANTS CAN EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. OTHER NEGOTIATING METHODS (WORKING GROUPS OR EMISSARIES) CANNOT FULFILL THIS PARTICULAR FUNCTION.

(B) LESS FORMAL METHODS MIGHT BE FOUND MORE EFFICIENT IN CERTAIN CASES, AND IN THAT EVENT WORKING GROUPS MIGHT BE FORMED IN CONSONANCE WITH PROCEDURAL RULES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN AGREED IN VIENNA. BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THESE WORK-

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ING GROUPS BE OPEN-ENDED, WITH EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY ABLE TO ATTEND OR NOT ACCORDING TO THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO THE QUESTION UNDER DISCUSSION. IT SHOULD HOWEVER BE THE EXCLUSIVE PREROGATIVE OF THE PLENARY MEETING TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUPS AND THESE SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE PLENARY.

(C) IF THE AD HOC GROUP UNANIMOUSLY DEEMS IT NECESSARY TO EMPLOY EMISSARIES TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR ISSUE, THE AD HOC GROUP MUST DECIDE ON THE NUMBER AND IDENTITY OF THE EMISSARIES, DEFINE THEIR MANDATE PRECISELY AND OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT MANDATE.

(D) IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ADD TO THE PROCEDURAL RULES

WORKED OUT IN VIENNA CERTAIN AGREEMENTS REGARDING THE CON-VOCATION OF PLENARY MEETINGS. IT MIGHT BE AGREED, FOR EX-AMPLE, THAT THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE NEXT PLENARY WOULD CONVENE A MEETING SHORTLY AFTER A REQUEST BY ANY FOUR PARTICIPANTS THAT HE DO SO. END TEXT. MCAULIFFE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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